

# GMAT XXIV Meeting Minutes

St. Croix Crossing Growth Management Advisory Team

April 26 @ 9:30 a.m.

UW-River Falls Hudson Center

## **Call the meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Dan Baumann, WDNR

## **Updates & Check-ins**

*DOTs* - Beth Cunningham, WisDOT provided the following update: Since the last GMAT meeting, there hasn't been significant change on the Wisconsin side of the River. The paving contractor along with WisDOT had the preconstruction meeting for the concrete paving portion of the project, and the base preparation has started. All of the paving will be completed within a few months, with the exception of the last 1500' or so before the River Bridge. Once the concrete is placed, the roadway will sit vacant for about a year and a half until the River Bridge is opened. The design team is continuing to work through the challenges of the loop trail. There are many challenges with the ADA accessibility on the long hill but we are slowly making progress.

*Basin Team* – Jerry Spetzman was unable to attend, but sent a handout for the group to review. (attached)

*St Croix County* – Amanda Engesether reported on the funding agreement for the ordinance revision is being worked on. St. Croix County is going through the process of hiring for two positions. They are hoping to have them in place the beginning of June. These positions will be as support for comprehensive revisions.

Amanda also informed the group that the Bike and Pedestrian Trail plan is still in joint committee. Joint committee meetings are being held and new board members are being informed of projects and their status. The disbursement of funds held by St. Croix County is going well, thanks to Julie Peterson.

*UW-River Falls* - Danielle Campeau gave an update on the St. Croix Summit which was held at the University on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Summit went well, with over 200 attendees. Dan Baumann informed the group that Deb Ryun of the St. Croix River Association had requested dollars from the boat workshop scholarships be used for additional scholarships for this summit. The amount was approved. Supplying the additional scholarships worked well.

UW-River Falls had not received feedback from Rain to Rivers. UW-River Falls intends to partner with Rain to Rivers to fund the Coalition's membership.

*Town of St. Joseph* – Tom Spaniol, Town of St. Joseph stated that when reading the minutes the Rain to Rivers, the organization plans to send a contract to the Town of St. Joseph. Tom stated that from what he read, Rain to Rivers is allowing the Corridor Communities Coalition to join/participate for the next three year period. The Town received a letter/permit identifying

them as an MS4 community. Moving forward, the Town of St. Joseph will have to work separately from the Coalition on Rain to River projects.

Tom Spaniol informed the group that the Bike and Pedestrian Trail plan may need small revisions. The Town is waiting for St. Croix County to finish their Bike and Pedestrian Trail plan, so the Town can determine what updates will need to be made in order to dovetail with the County plan.

The Town of St. Joseph has completed projects SJC002 and SJC003. Funds remaining from SJC002 have been returned to the account held by St. Croix County.

Tom stated that the Town has completed a draft of the Natural Resource Inventory. He also updated the group on the status of the comprehensive plan stating that maps are being prepared, and the plan should be complete in about four months.

The Town of St. Joseph received an Urban Non-Point Source Planning Grant. By August they will have information available for MS4 implementation.

The Town is also working on a facilities management plan. They will be conducting groundwater discharge soil testing, to look into options of groundwater discharge or connecting to another community's source. Facility planning will identify costs for alternate ways of solving this problem.

The Town currently has \$67,000 in greenspace funds remaining. The Town is waiting to hear whether or not they will receive a TAP Grant. If the grant is approved the Town will be looking into easements and greenspaces. During their next real estate meeting, the Town will be looking at properties to purchase with their acquisition dollars. The Town is also pursuing lake management grants, and is working with landowners on Perch Lake. Meetings will be held within the next few months with the Lake Association.

*Corridor Communities Coalition* – Carolyn Barrett stated that the Coalition's funds are about half expended. Wastewater facility plants have been inspected, and the Coalition is looking at options for fixing what is problematic. Houlton and the Town of St. Joseph have used wastewater dollars. Other communities may want to look into using these funds as well. Amanda Egensether will be working with communities on the use of stormwater funds, once all information is in.

Working with farmers on resource management standards, what to do and how to solve the surface water and water quality problem, is something the Coalition would like to focus on. Dan Baumann said DNR continues discussions with DATCP on funding for farmer led projects to control non-point.

Ellen Denzer stated that St. Croix County received a grant for farmer led project. The dollars received are being used half for staffing and half for practices.

*WDNR* - Dan Baumann wanted to inform the group that the WDNR is going through agency wide alignment. Our staffing is down, while workload is up. WDNR is working on efficiencies, concentrating on core work versus doing work if we are unable to give deliverables. Changes

should be in place by the end of the fiscal year. Dan wanted to assure GMAT members that this alignment will not affect the services they are receiving.

Dan wanted to remind the group that we are at the 3-year mark of a 5-year project. Members are reminded to utilize the funds being expended, and to track the work and timelines of funded projects. Having information current and reports of expended funds updated is needed. Remind the groups you work with of deadlines and repeat trying to hit the mark.

**Discussion of proposed projects** – The Town of St. Joseph submitted a proposal for ordinance development. The Town is requesting \$4,000 to update the Roadway Ordinance portion of 149. This rewrite includes; roads, trails and erosion control. Included in the rewrite will be roadway sections, curb gutter, etc. The Town Board has approved the update.

**Recommendations of GMAT members** – A motion was made by Jim Erkel and seconded by Danielle Campeau to recommend that WDNR approve the Town of St. Joseph proposal and draft a funding agreement and letter to release funds from the County. The motion passed.

**Next Meeting Date** – Dan Baumann proposed quarterly face-to-face meetings. GMAT members suggested conference calls included with quarterly meetings. Also suggested was quarterly submission of updates by email if no proposals are submitted for review. If proposals are submitted, then either a face-to-face meeting, or conference call. The next meeting will be held July 19<sup>th</sup>, save the date with location to be forth coming.

**PRESENT:**

Dan Baumann, WDNR  
Danielle Campeau, UW-River Falls  
Tom Spaniol, Town of St. Joseph  
Jim Erkel, MN Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Bill Rubins – St. Croix Cty Econ Dev

Ellen Denzer – St. Croix Cty  
Amanda Engesether – St. Croix Cty  
Carolyn Barrett – Town of St. Joseph  
Lee Mann- Stantec  
Eric Biltonen – UW Extension  
Susan Snyder - WDNR